

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

I TOLD YOU SO - SO SAYETH BUZZ!

by Lynn Rudow

I know it's been a long time since any of you heard from me, and believe it or not, I've had someONE who actually missed my articles. However, this article is not a happy one - at least to my way of thinking.

I don't have any physical proof - like a letter from Micropolis - but I do have a GOOD source at Micropolis who tells me that, starting in September, the 1115s will be phased out. Whether this means that they'll completely stop production of the 1115s or they'll take orders for a one-time batch production, I don't know. I've asked my source to please verify this and send me something in writing so we, the small guy, can plan ahead.

I hate to admit this, but Buzz has been telling me this was going to happen soon. Well, I guess I'm finally a believer. It's happening now.

THAT MEANS DECISION TIME - FOR YOU! Do you buy a spare and keep your system or do you change? We'll still be able to get parts for the 1115 drives for five years, but the time between an order for parts and their shipment may be lengthened considerably.

The reason? Micropolis will not keep a large inventory of parts needed for the 1000/1100 series. They will probably wait until they have a total order of 50 or 100 pieces before they go to the manufacturer. DAMAN (aka MUG) will try to keep their own inventory up, so you can get parts when you need them.

So, with that in mind, maybe you want to hang in there with your Micropolis drives. I might mention that we still have three years to get parts for the 1000 series drives. However, since both the 1000s and 1115s use a few of the same parts, like the door latch and hinge, that time could get extended.

Now I get to give you some advice. For seven years I've been using the Micropolis equipment and have had no problem that Buzz couldn't fix. I even changed the motor tach assembly once and that's saying a lot, since I'm not a technician of any kind. I don't have a problem getting software because I buy it in Standard CP/M 8" and download it to my Micropolis format and away I go. Since I'm happy with my equipment and software, I see no reason why I should try to sell it. I'm certainly not going to get what I paid for it, and I'll spend even more money on new equipment and software. I figure I've invested seven years learning how my equipment works, so why should I want to trash all that and start over again? I guess what I'm trying to say is, I don't really worry, other than it's going to hurt my sales. But, I do believe there are going to be more and more repair centers that will be able to repair our equipment. So I plan on keeping my old SOL, Vector Graphic, Blackhawk and California Computer System until it's just not possible to run them anymore.

If you're interested in purchasing a spare drive, the price is \$302 for an 1115-II, \$375 for the 1115-IV. This price is for a bare drive with no power

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

supply or enclosure. Shipping is not included either. Please remember we must place our orders before September. In the meantime, if the situation changes I'll certainly let you know, if there's still time.

One last piece of information. Micropolis is NOT going under. They are concentrating totally on the 5" hard, which I might add is selling very well for them.

Oh, Micropolis has just given us authorization to reproduce their 1015, 1015F/1016F, 1055/1035 maintenance manuals. If you have one of these drives and would like the manual, the cost is \$35 plus shipping.

I have to say; Micropolis has been good to the MUG and like no other manufacturer, has turned over a lot of information to the users group. Whatever direction they take, I hope it's successful and I hope to be a part of it.

Call me if I can answer any questions at 205 881-1697.

.....

VECTOR GRAPHIC SOFTWARE UPDATE

by Lou Woody, Sunrise Data Systems

10000 West 75th Street, Suite 200, Shawnee Mission KS 66204

Several of you out there may be interested in obtaining the most current versions of your Vector Graphic software. To do so, in most instances, is a relatively painless and inexpensive (depending on your viewpoint, of course) endeavor.

The process first requires that you locate the original diskette that the software was delivered to you on. You will need five pieces of information from the label; the serial number, the Vector part number (example: 6543-0011), what it is (example: CP/M for System B), the version number, and the release number. With that information you can check the chart below or call your favorite authorized Vector Graphic dealer to see if you have the most current software available, according to the version and release numbers.

How do you know, or find out, whether the most recent software contains features that are worth the update charge? Unfortunately, most of the time you just have to get the update and explore (list the documentation file on the disk) to determine if you made a worthwhile investment. Occasionally, your dealer might know, but it is a hit and miss situation because we (the authorized dealers) are not given explicit documentation on software revisions.

Be that as it may, here are a couple of rules to follow that are generally, but not always, accurate. Usually a new version number indicates significant enhancements to the software. This can mean that the software is more efficient (your machine will operate faster), the software has more capabilities (will do more), or some really wicked errors have been fixed.

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

Additionally, a version change from say "1.4" to "2.0" will usually have more improvements than a version change from "1.4" to "1.5". A change in release number generally means that the software has had some of the bugs fixed (errors corrected) that were found in the previous release. If your current software has the most recent version number but a lower release number and you haven't encountered any bugs, then it probably isn't worthwhile to get the update.

So now you have the hots for the updated software. How do you go about fulfilling your new desire? Contact your favorite authorized Vector Graphic dealer, tell him/her you want a software update, give him/her the part number and serial number from your original diskette, and pay the appropriate update fee. Then just put it out of your mind for two to three weeks and then one day your dedicated UPS or US Mail person will arrive at your door with a package labeled "VECTOR" in his/her sweaty little hand. Thank him/her appropriately and enjoy! (To each his own!)

Below you will find a very abbreviated list of software updates available, their current version and release numbers, the part number, and the price of the software update. You can also get a new manual if you want, for an additional fee. I have listed only THE most common software, as the complete list is fifteen pages long. The part number is not listed because it can vary, depending on the specific machine and operating system used.

DESCRIPTION	VERSION	RELEASE	UPDATE PRICE	PART NUMBER
BASIC COMPILER (MICROSOFT)	5.30	6	\$50.00	
COBOL COMPILER	4.3	6	50.00	
COBOL "FORMS"	1.1	6	50.00	
CONNECT	2.1	3	50.00	
CP/M FOR 48K "SYSTEM B"	2.20	6	50.00	6000-0001
CP/M FOR 56K "SYSTEM B"	2.20	8	50.00	6000-0002
CP/M FOR "2800"	2.20	8	50.00	6000-0003
CP/M FOR "2600", "VIP", & "3100"	2.22	7	50.00	6000-0004
CP/M FOR "3005" & "3105"	2.22	8	50.00	6000-0005
CP/M FOR B5 UPGRADE	2.22	1	50.00	6000-0006
CP/M FOR MU UPGRADE	2.22	1	50.00	6000-0007
CP/M FOR "3032"	2.22	3	50.00	6000-0008
CP/M FOR "5005"	2.24	8	50.00	6000-0009
CP/M FOR VECTOR 4	1.5	6	50.00	6000-0022
CP/M (EXTENDED) FOR ALL SYSTEMS	2.57	9	50.00	6000-0010
V4 PROGRAM		3	25.00	6000-0028
CP/M FOR VECTOR 5	1.3	3	50.00	6000-0029
V5 PROGRAM	1.3	3	25.00	6000-0030
CP/M 86 (HARD SECTOR)	1.5	6	50.00	6000-0034
CP/M 86 (SOFT SECTOR)	1.2	3	50.00	6000-9034
CP/M 86 PROGRAM (HARD SECTOR)	1.4	5	25.00	6000-0035
CP/M 86 PROGRAM (SOFT SECTOR)	1.1	2	25.00	6000-9035
CP/M 86 V4/S (SOFT SECTOR)	2.0	1	50.00	6000-9075
CP/M 86 PROGRAM V4/S (SOFT SECTOR)	2.0	1	50.00	6000-9076
CP/M 86 VSX/MX (SOFT SECTOR)	2.2	3	50.00	6000-9077

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

DESCRIPTION	VERSION	RELEASE	UPDATE PRICE	PART NUMBER
CP/M 86 PROGRAM VSX/MX (SOFT SECTOR)	2.0	1	25.00	6000-9078
CC CP/M VSX	1.1	2	50.00	6000-9064
CC CP/M MX	1.1	2	50.00	6000-9065
CC CP/M VSX/MX PROGRAM	1.0	1	25.00	6000-9066
CP/M 86 VSX	1.2	3	50.00	6000-9054
CP/M 86 VSX PROGRAM	1.0	1	25.00	6000-9055
DATAMANAGER	1.17	5	50.00	
EXECUPLAN II FOR V4,V4S,VSX,VMX,V5E (RELEASE 3 & EARLIER-INCLUDES MANUAL)	2.4	8	158.33	
EXPECPLAN II FOR V4,V4S,VSX,VMX, V5E (LATER THAN RELEASE 3)	2.4	8	50.00	
EXECUPLAN II FOR ALL OTHERS (RELEASE 3 & EARLIER - INCLUDES MANUALS)	2.3	7	158.33	
EXECUPLAN II FOR ALL OTHERS (LATER THAN RELEASE 3)	2.3	7	50.00	
FORTRAN (EXCEPT "2800")	3.44	5	50.00	
MDOS FOR 48K	4.0	84	50.00	
MDOS FOR 56K	4.0	86	50.00	
MEMORITE III FOR V4,V4S,VSX,VMX,V5E	3.2	3	50.00	
MEMORITE III FOR ALL STANDARD CP/M SYSTEMS	1.5	7	50.00	
MEMORITE III FOR ALL EXTENDED CP/M SYSTEMS WITH TANDON DRIVES	2.3	4	50.00	
MEMORITE III FOR ALL OTHER EXTENDED CP/M SYSTEMS	2.2	3	50.00	
MEMORITE III UPGRADE FROM STANDARD TO EXTENDED CP/M - INCLUDES MANUAL	VARIES	VARIES	158.33	
PEACHTREE SERIES 4 ACCT S/W COMPLETE SET - FROM RELEASE 6 & EARLIER	1.5	9	190.00	
PEACHTREE SERIES 4 ACCT S/W COMPLETE SET -FROM RELEASE 7 & LATER	1.5	9	90.00	
PEACHTREE SERIES 4 ACCT S/W INDIVIDUAL MODULE - ANY RELEASE	1.5	9	50.00	
STATPAK	2.1	3	50.00	

.....

FRUSTRATED NO MORE!

by Lynn Rudow

Dear Muggies,

I know only you will be able to appreciate the agony and frustration I've been put through these past several weeks. We're talking "big time" agony and frustration, and neither Buzz nor the children gave me a "pity party". I guess by now you're wondering, What on earth is this all about? CP/M of course! Is there anything else that would cause ME such misery?

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

This all started a few months ago when Prodigy (my vendor for CP/M) decided not to sell CP/M 2.2 for Micropolis. Actually, it's a tiny bit more involved. You see, Prodigy bought the rights from Bruce Ratoff to sell his CP/M for Micropolis, but Prodigy had to buy the manuals from Digital Research. Now, Prodigy wasn't buying enough manuals so D. R. decided not to renew their contract, AND since Prodigy couldn't get any manuals, they couldn't sell CP/M.

At this point I thought, "who cares?" I don't like CP/M anyway. I informed Buzz of this and he says "no big deal, buy it from Lifeboat". Lifeboat's CP/M is a little more expensive, but since it was the only place I could get it, I decided to buy from Lifeboat. Did I ever have trouble with them. They'd charge me full price instead of dealer. They'd send MOD I instead of MOD II. Ship it COD and bill me too. Ship it Federal Express instead of UPS Blue, or UPS Blue instead of Ground. In addition, it's taken me twenty months to get our account straightened out. Now, through all the above, I was nice and pleasant, never raising my voice, because they were my only source for CP/M. Now they have the audacity to inform me that they're dropping CP/M for Micropolis!!

Okay; I inform Buzz of this new development and I just know in my bones he's going to have the answer and he does. Call and see if you can make a deal to reproduce the Micropolis version of CP/M. He doesn't ask much - I'm in the "answer phones, take orders department" not talk negotiations with the big guys. But if he has enough faith to ask me to do it, why not? I might be good at this. Never know till you try.

I first called Lifeboat and talked to someone in marketing who had never heard of Micropolis format. She said she'd check it out and get back to me. Wait, wait, wait, wait, no call. After a couple more phone calls to Lifeboat, with no results, I gave up and took my problem back to the boss.

Under his new directions, I called Digital Research to discuss purchasing the rights to reproduce CP/M. Now the secretary to whomever I wanted to talk to, but didn't, told me that because I was in Alabama I should call the Digital Research office in Boston. I call the Boston office and they say to call Softeam or Westaco - they can supply CP/M Micropolis format. Well, I already know that Softeam does not supply any software in Micropolis format but I try Westaco anyway. The first day Westaco is taking inventory. A few days go by, I call again to find out that Westaco has shut down and I should call my vendor. So, I call Digital Research in Boston and was told I really needed to talk to the West Coast office. I call the West Coast office and they said to call the Boston office. However, they did give me the name of a guy to ask for - wasn't that nice? He happened to be in a meeting but would call me back. HA! HA!

By now I've lost all my jitters over negotiations because I'm convinced I'll never get to anyone to negotiate with. I decide to present this to the boss. Now what do I do boss? I really thought I had him here. I had really exhausted all possibilities not to mention our whopping phone bill. Guess what - yep, he already had another answer. He actually told me to call Bruce Ratoff, the writer of CP/M for Micropolis.

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

Bruce was very sympathetic and has agreed, by phone, to allow us to sell his product. SUCCESS! I had actually finally accomplished this task. I phoned the boss to inform him and wouldn't you know it - his secretary said he was on the phone and would call me back!

Well, now I feel much better having shared this with you all. Furthermore, if I don't sell a whole lot of CP/M's, I'm really going to cry.

.....

FILLING IN THE BLANKS WITH BASIC/Z

by S. Michael Raney
Rt. 4 Box 115, Greenfield IN

Did you ever try to fill in the blanks on a pre-printed form with a Basic program? Most forms aren't designed with computer printers in mind, which makes it doubly difficult and certainly not portable. Here's a method I use with Basic/z to print a pre-printed form that has odd-ball line spacing. I don't believe you could do this with any other language and remain portable. Instead of sending you a piece of code I've sent the whole program. It's called EXP and I use it to enter and print my business expense statement every week. The print program is called EXPP and is the one to which I'm referring. All the programs are on MUG CP/M library disk 1911.

In order to use this method you need a printer that has variable line spacing. I have a C.ITOH 8510 matrix printer and for this form I set it to 16 lines per inch using the PRINTER(2) statement. Then I used a ruler and marked the form every 1/16 of an inch and numbered each line. I also set the printer to 12 characters per inch (elite) with the PRINTER(6) statement.

```
PRINTER(2) = ESC "T09"      ---      1B 54 30 39
PRINTER(6) = ESC "E"        ---      1B 45
```

Then I set the pagesize to 150,96.

Incidentally, to the question: 'Will your printer recognize a form-feed code?', I answered "no", so the program would have full control over the page length. So I lied.

Now to position the print simply use the tab command. For example:
PRINT TAB(120,90);.

There are five sections to this program. In addition it generates three data files.

COLOR	for NCR Decision Mate 5 (This shouldn't hurt to leave in)
EXPC	common section (don't compile)
EXPE	data entry section
EXPY	year to date print (compile these three)
EXPP	expense form print

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

EXPENSE is the default name for the data files.

To run, type: RZ EXPE datafilename<cr>. The data file name is optional.

This program is too specific to be of much use but you might find some useful stuff in it. Have fun!

(Editor's Note - Mike's programs are on MUG CP/M Library Disk 1911.)

.....

WHAT IS A MUG, AND WHAT IS A DAMAN

by Buzz Rudow

The question of what the MUG and DAMAN are all about continually comes up. That's natural enough. We don't very often say what we are. Sometimes it's because we're lazy. Most times it's because we aren't sure ourselves.

Both entities started with my purchase of a SOL computer, which uses Micropolis floppies. Lynn got a few jobs around town doing various word and list processing tasks. We named the company DAMAN, as a contraction of Data MANagement. This was six or seven years ago. CP/M version 1.4 existed, but was no more well known than the Micropolis Disk Operating System (MDOS). These were the days of 4Kb of RAM being a big deal. An 8Kb board of RAM cost as much as 64K does now. Therefore, most people worked with tape, not disk.

I wrote all Lynn's list processing software under MDOS, using Micropolis Basic. Most of her programs still run under that system and language. Anyway, I wanted to talk with other users of MDOS. I put an ad in what is now known as Computer Shopper, asking if anyone wanted to start a users group. Some people did, so I started editing and distributing the Micropolis Users Group (MUG) newsletter, six years ago next month.

Vector Graphic became involved because I bought a Vector for the OAO office. OAO is my prime source of income, and is the prime reason why we, and everyone else, is unsure of what the MUG and DAMAN are. OAO takes tremendous amounts of my time. Never-the-less, the Vector had Micropolis drives, which was the reason I bought it, and it ran both MDOS and CP/M. Several more Vectors entered our personal lives, so I developed a bias to Vector. Since Vector was the major system which contained Micropolis drives, many Vector owners joined the group. Vector's switch to Tandon didn't effect us much, since they kept, until recently, the 77-track, 100-tracks/inch, 16-hard-sector format.

At about this time, my recollection of the history gets fuzzy. The microcomputer craze was in full swing, yet there weren't many businesses serving the need. I thought that Lynn and I could, and should, get a piece of the action. We became a software vender.

Although we were quite serious in our view of this endeavor, we never got serious enough about the implementation of a plan. Actually, we never made a

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

plan, which in turn shows that we really don't know what we're doing.

I'll spare you the details of the last five years and just tell you where we are today. We obviously still exist. Lynn still processes data for local businesses. The newsletter still goes out every month. DAMAN still sells MDOS and CP/M software, Micropolis drives and parts, and can sell various other peripheral and accessory equipment for microcomputers.

We are a business, but we don't work very hard at looking like a business. We certainly aren't working hard at making it work well, because we surely couldn't exist on its profits as our sole source of income. That's OK. Having DAMAN be a "successful" business is not one of our requirements for sustained operation.

This situation, from my point of view, is both good and bad for you, the Micropolis/Vector Graphic buying public. The good part is that we're fairly knowledgeable about Micropolis/Vector Graphic, and can provide you with information and products, or with direction to alternate sources of information and products, for your equipment. Our continued availability to provide this service is not contingent on obtaining certain accounting ratios, other than breaking even. I imagine we'll be here as long as anyone is interested in having us here, because we truly like, and use, the equipment, and like talking with you other users. Discussion of your problems is as much a part of the membership fee as is the newsletter. If you're a MUG member, no further purchase is necessary, other than paying for the phone call.

The bad part is that we don't let you know what you can expect from us. We get requests for product catalogs. That's reasonable, but we don't have any. We don't even have a current price sheet. We get requests for support on data base managers and word processors about which we know little. Having no personal reason to research those subjects, we simply tell you we don't support those products. I can see why you people have a rough time understanding us.

We may get around to preparing current price sheets and catalogs. In the meantime, understand that we can provide any CP/M software on the Micropolis/Vector Graphic format. Just call for a price. Some of our products and prices have been printed in past newsletters. For instance, the following price lists have appeared:

Star Printers - 4/85
CP/M software - 12/84

Micropolis drives, parts, manuals - 12/84
MDOS software - 12/84

Articles, or detailed ads, for MDOS software appeared in:

Allen MDOS Extensions - 11/82 & 6/83	Disk Controller Enhancement - 9/82
Basic Expansion Module - 5/83 & 9/84	Edit/s - 9/82
Basic/z for MDOS - 8/84	Inventory One - 1/81
Bookkeeping - 3/82	Sort/A - 10/80
Data Base Two - 1/81	Textwriter - 12/81
Data Base Two to Textwriter - 1/84	Utilities I - 12/80
DataSmith Utilities - 7/82	Wamsort - 1/81
Disk Banking - 5/82 & 7/81	X-ref - 11/80

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

Articles, or detailed ads, for Micropolis and Star hardware appeared in:
Micropolis manuals - 10/84 Star Printer - 4/85
Micropolis drives - 8/83

Articles, or detailed ads, for CP/M software appeared in:
Basic/z - 7/81, 3/82 & 3/83 Mini-ledger - 1/84 & 10/84
Catalog - 12/82 Power - 8/83
Catchum - 10/82 & 11/82 Spellbinder - 1/84
Ladder - 12/81 & 12/82 Super Calc - 5/83

We don't "support" a lot of these products. We do support, and recommend, Micropolis drives, BASIC/Z for MDOS or CP/M, Spellbinder, Power, Catalog, SuperCalc, and Bookkeeping and Payroll for MDOS or CP/M. We also support all the MDOS software of BonJoel, DataSmith and System/z. We believe, from speaking with you members, that BDS-C, Turbo Pascal, and Mini-ledger are good products. We can support these products to a limited degree, and have enough interest in them that we'll try to give in-depth support.

For those of you more interested in public domain software, i.e., the MUG library, you'll be pleased to know that upkeep in this area is also behind. However, the latest full catalog of both MDOS and CP/M disks appeared in the 2/84 MUG newsletter. Updates to the MDOS library were shown in the 7/84 and 5/85 newsletters. Updates to the CP/M library were shown in the 6/84 and 7/84 newsletters. I have actually worked on getting these libraries up to date. Nothing to release yet, though.

So, that's the status of the MUG and DAMAN from my standpoint. The worth of the newsletter depends on you members. I really need more input on what you are discovering and doing. We can't rely on Ed King, Burks Smith, Lou Woody, Lyn Zelmer and Mike Raney to provide all the articles.

.....

CLASSIFIED

The Classified Section of the MUG Newsletter is available to all users, free of charge. Just call or write us with a description of what hardware, software, information, etc., you want to obtain, or dispose of.

.....

FOR SALE: A number of Vector Graphic demo models, namely the 420, 430-S, and 440. Also a Nec/Vector 7700 Printer and a Data Products/Vector dot matrix printer. If any of these items are of interest, we welcome your inquiry and assure you that our offer will be worth it.

Abraham Hases, The Computer Specialists, Inc., 8 Church Street, Torrington CT 06790. (203) 489-9484.

WANTED: Late model S-100 Micropolis Disk Controller Board. Gene Riding, 2227 Chicago Street, San Diego CA 92110. (619) 276-6224, anytime.

.....

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER #60 - JULY 1985

CLASSIFIED (continued)

FOR SALE: Two Micropolis 1023 MOD II single drives, \$150 each. Drives modified to turn off when not accessed. The rest of the equipment from last month's ad has been sold. The MUG is a great place to advertise. Mark Hanslip, (513) 268-7225, after 5:30 EDT.

.....

FOR SALE: IMSAI 8080 (Z80), MIO, 64K RAM, 1053 Micropolis Dual MOD II drives, CP/M system, lots of disks, software and documentation. Good working condition. \$550. Robert Reister, 1819 Cymbal Way, Anaheim CA 92807. (714) 779-6084.

.....

* MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER *

* Published Monthly by DAMAN, 604 Springwood Circle, Huntsville AL 35803 *

* Subscription rates: North America; \$18/year Elsewhere; \$25/year, Airmailed *

* *

* For Assistance with general information, MUG/Vector Graphic, DAMAN hardware *

* & software, Micropolis Basic, Basic/z, Micropolis drives & Micropolis parts-*

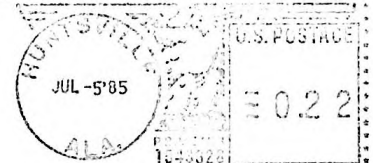
* *

* Call Lynn or Buzz at (205)881-1697 during the Central Times of 9 AM to 9 PM.*

* *

=====

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC
USERS GROUP
A Division of DAMAN
604 Springwood Circle
Huntsville AL 35803
(205) 881-1697



FIRST CLASS MAIL
=====

FIRST CLASS MAIL
=====